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A SUMMARY OF THE  
FIRST FIFTEEN  
ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE  
DANTE SOCIETY

CAMBRIDGE

1955

## PREFACE

The Society has on hand ample stocks of its Sixteenth Annual Report and of all its later Annual Reports; but it has no stocks of Nos. 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 14, and 15, and its stocks of Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, and 10-13 are very limited. Since reprinting or photographic reproduction of these fifteen Reports would be prohibitively expensive, the present Summary has been prepared for the benefit of those who may like in some sense to complete their sets of the Reports.

Certain statements about the early reports may be made here. The lists of officers designate certain persons as "Members of the Council": that heading really means "Additional Members of the Council," since the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and (in certain years) the Librarian have also been members of the Council. In each of the first eleven cases the Report proper is signed by all members of the Council: in the later cases it is signed by the Secretary. The first twelve Reports were printed by John Wilson and Son, Cambridge; the next three by Ginn and Company, Boston. In general, the pages were counted on the supposition that the title page, if it had borne a printed number, would have been p. 1—there are variations in a few cases. Pages not accounted for in the following summaries of the several Reports are blank. Indented paragraphs in excerpt type are quoted exactly from the Reports.

ERNEST H. WILKINS

## FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Cover and title page:

First Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 16, 1882.

P. 3. List of Officers: President, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Vice-President, James Russell Lowell; Members of the Council, Charles Eliot Norton, Justin Winsor, and Philip Coombs Knapp, Jr.; Secretary and Treasurer, John Woodbury. A footnote to the name of Mr. Longfellow reads: "Died March 24, 1882." A separate sheet circulated with this Report states that at the meeting of May 16, 1882 the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, James Russell Lowell; Vice-President, Charles Eliot Norton; Members of the Council, Justin Winsor, Louis Dyer, and Philip Coombs Knapp, Jr.; Secretary and Treasurer, John Woodbury.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. Sections 1, 3, 4, and 6-12 are as they continued to be in all later Reports published before 1954. Sections 2 and 5 are as follows:

2. Any person desirous to become a member of this Society may do so by signifying his or her wish in writing to the Secretary, and, if accepted as such by the Council, by the payment of an annual fee of five dollars.

5. The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and Treasurer, who, together with three members thereto chosen, shall form the Council of the Society. All these officers shall be chosen at the Annual Meeting, and their term of service shall be for one year, or until their successors are elected. Vacancies in the Council shall be filled for the remainder of the year by the Council, except in the office of President. In case of his death or resignation, a special meeting of the Society shall be called to elect a successor.

Pp. 7-8. List of members.

Pp. 9-15. Report. The first two paragraphs are as follows:

In December, 1880, a circular was issued proposing the formation of a society for the encouragement and promotion of the study of

Dante's life and works, and inviting those who would be interested in the objects of the society to become members. In the following February Mr. Longfellow, who had consented to accept the Presidency of the Society, received the members at his house; and at that and at a subsequent meeting, held at the house of Professor Norton, the organization of the Society was completed by the adoption of a set of By-Laws and the election of a board of officers. These By-Laws provide that the Society shall be called the Dante Society; that the general direction of the Society shall be in the hands of a Council of six members; that an Annual Meeting shall be held in Cambridge on the third Tuesday of May, at which the Council shall present a report of their proceedings in print.

The Council, in fulfilment of this duty, herewith present their first Report, and must begin with the expression of their sense of the irreparable loss which the Society has sustained by the recent death of its first President. They refer for a notice of Mr. Longfellow's services to the Remarks appended to this Report.

The third paragraph speaks of the desirability of increasing the membership of the Society. The next two paragraphs tell the story of the first project of the Society—the publication of Benvenuto da Imola's commentary on the *Divine Comedy*—and of its abandonment when it became known that Lord Vernon had made arrangements to have Benvenuto's commentary published in Italy. The four remaining paragraphs speak of the Society's plan to establish a library of Dantesque literature, to be placed in the Harvard College Library; of the distribution to members of the Society of reproductions of the death-mask of Dante; of the publication of Dr. Parsons' translation of *Purgatorio XXI*; and of various projects that might be undertaken by the Society.

#### P. 16. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 17-25. Remarks of Mr. Norton at the Annual Meeting held on May 16, 1882. These Remarks are reprinted herewith:

While the members of the Dante Society share in the common sorrow for the death of Mr. Longfellow, they feel a deep sense of peculiar and personal loss. For Mr. Longfellow was not only the most eminent of the students of Dante in America, but, as the President of this Society, he had from the first taken a cordial interest in its work, and rendered to it the most efficient aid. He had accepted the

Presidency upon condition that no duties should be connected with it, for already when the Society was formed his years were many and his health uncertain. But he filled the office as if he had made no such condition.

The copy of the manuscript in the Laurentian library of the Comment on the Inferno by Benvenuto da Imola, which is in our hands to-night, is not so much the memorial of a frustrated project of the Society, as of Mr. Longfellow's liberal and zealous promotion of its interests. Desirous that the Society should perform a work of essential benefit to the students of the Divine Comedy, he undertook to bear the whole cost of the transcript of Benvenuto's Comment, in the hope that the editing and publication of it might be effected by the Society. When Lord Vernon's intention of publishing the work, in fulfilment of the design of his late father, became known, the first part of the transcript was already well advanced. It seemed needless to go on with our project, but, at Mr. Longfellow's desire, the copy of the Comment on the Inferno was completed, and it will remain henceforth in our library, prized by ourselves and our successors as the permanent record of Mr. Longfellow's connection with our Society and concern in its work.

Mr. Longfellow's interest in Dante began early, but his serious study of him dates from his stay in Rome in 1827, in his account of which in "Outre Mer" he says that "poring over the gloomy pages of Dante, or 'Bandello's laughing tale,' I protract my nightly vigil till the morning star is in the sky." He soon learned that not all the pages of Dante are gloomy.

I do not know when the translations of those passages from the Purgatorio were made, or whether they had previously been printed, which appeared in 1839 in the little volume of "Voices of the Night," the corner stone of his poetic fame. One is "The Celestial Pilot," from the second canto; another, "The Terrestrial Paradise," from the twenty-eighth canto; and the third is "Beatrice," from the thirtieth and thirty-first cantos. These translations are of interest in many respects, but especially as showing that Mr. Longfellow had already adopted the principle of literal, verse for verse, unrhymed translation, which he adhered to when he undertook the task of translating the whole of the Divine Comedy. The versions are of great beauty, and are embodied with little change in the complete work. But it is well worth while to compare the passages as they stand in the Voices of the Night, and in their place in the translation of the Divine Comedy,

in order to note the later revision which the poet gave to them, and to mark the signs it affords of increased simplicity, literalness, and perfected art. The comparison is an instructive study of the refinement of poetic expression. The last touch, the hardest part of the artist's task according to the proverb of the Greek sculptor, perfects the work.

These specimens of his unrivalled skill and felicity as a translator, led some of Mr. Longfellow's friends to urge him in succeeding years to render into English more passages of the poem, if not the whole of it. His taste led him to the work. In a letter written in March, 1843, he says: "How different from this gossip is the Divine Dante with which I begin the morning! I write a few lines every day before breakfast. It is the first thing I do,—the morning prayer,—the key-note of the day. I am delighted to have you take an interest in it. But do not expect too much, for I really have but a few moments to devote to it daily; yet daily a stone, small or great, is laid on the pile." But other interests and occupations shortly interfered to prevent him from completing the task.

Years passed on, and, though Dante was never long absent from his hand, he did not resume the translation. I have a note from him, written in 1859, in which he says:—

"Long, long ago I planned a book to be called 'An Introduction to the Study of Dante.' It was to contain a translation of

1. Boccaccio's Life.
2. The *Vita Nuova*.
3. The Letter of Fra Hilario.
4. The Vision of Frate Alberico.
5. Schelling on the 'Divina Commedia.'
6. Anecdotes, etc. from the *Novellieri*.
7. The best things said upon Dante by Carlyle, Macaulay, and others,—etc., etc.

"Now I make it all over to you, if you will undertake it. Will you?

"How the birds twitter and sing this *bellissima giornata di primavera!*"

But this and the greater task circumstances were after all to bring him to accomplish.

In 1863, when he was experiencing a deeper need than at any other period of his life of occupation that should be of a nature congenial with his mood, and which should at least give him tranquil and regular employment, he was led, partly by his own impulse, partly

by friendly urgency, to resume the work long laid aside, and to engage in the restorative labor of translating the whole of the Divine Comedy. The work was steadily pursued, and with increasing interest. In the course of the year the greater part of the Inferno was finished. The sixth centenary of Dante's birth was approaching. Florence was about to celebrate the anniversary with unusual observances. She invited the lovers of her poet, wherever they might be, to unite with her in doing honor to his memory. Mr. Longfellow determined to send his translation to her as a tribute from America. But master as he was of his own language and of that of Dante, and thorough as was his knowledge of the substance and significance of the poem, he was too modest to rely wholly upon his own judgment and genius in the performance of his work, and he called upon two of his friends to sit with him in the final revision of it.

In 1863, the manuscript was put in the printers' hands, and every Wednesday evening Mr. Lowell and I met in Mr. Longfellow's study to listen while he read a canto of his translation from the proof-sheet. We paused over every doubtful passage, discussed the various readings, considered the true meaning of obscure words and phrases, sought for the most exact equivalent of Dante's expression, objected, criticised, praised, with a freedom that was made perfect by Mr. Longfellow's absolute sweetness, simplicity, and modesty, and by the entire confidence that existed between us. Witte's text was always before us, and of the early commentators Buti was the one to whom we had most frequent and most serviceable recourse. They were delightful evenings; there could be no pleasanter occupation; the spirits of poetry, of learning, of friendship, were with us. Now and then some other friend or acquaintance would join us for the hours of study. Almost always one or two guests would come in at ten o'clock, when the work ended, and sit down with us to a supper, with which the evening closed. Mr. Longfellow had a special charm as a host, the charm of social grace and humor, by which his guests were brought into congenial disposition. His delicate and refined taste, his cheerful enjoyment of good things, showed themselves in the arrangement and order of the table, no less than in the talk that went on round about it. He was in truth

"A man of such a genial mood  
The heart of all things he embraced,  
And yet of such fastidious taste  
He never found the best too good."

Ten copies of the translation of the *Inferno* in a form worthy of their destination were struck off, of which five were sent to Florence in season for the festival in May, 1865. I have one of them with the date of the day on which the completed volume came to the poet's hand, February 27, 1865, his own fifty-eighth birthday. These copies had a special dedication:—

“In Commemorazione  
del  
Secentesimo Anniversario Della Nascita  
di  
Dante Alighieri.”

During the two following years the translation and the revision of the *Purgatorio* and the *Paradiso* were carried on in the same manner as the *Inferno* had been. There were intervals, indeed, in which the Wednesday evening meetings were omitted, owing to natural interruptions in the progress of the work; but these were few and comparatively brief. The memory of those evenings is renewed by the printed volumes when I take them from the shelves. The verses recall the questions they suggested, the debates to which they led. The scene revives, and I hear the voices of the poets

“Ch'esser mi fecer della loro schiera,  
Si ch'io fui terzo tra cotanto senno.”

The three volumes of the translation, with its abundant and unequalled commentary, were published in the spring of 1867. My copy bears the date of May 1st,—a date appropriate, for May is Dante's month.

There is no need to speak of the character of Mr. Longfellow's translation. Its excellence is admitted by all competent critics. Though his work was complete, our Dante evenings did not come to an end. We continued for a time to meet once a week, but now in my study, to revise in the same manner my version of “The New Life.”

During subsequent years Mr. Longfellow still kept up his interest in Dantesque studies. He frequently used to propose the renewal of our Dantean meetings, urging me to translate the *Convito*, that it might form the subject of our discourse. I engaged to do the prose, if he would pledge himself to doing the difficult *Canzoni*. He smiled, and postponed the task.

During this last winter, the last gift he made me was a copy of a pamphlet on Dante that had interested him,—and since this year came in he had proposed that before long, perhaps when Lowell should come home, we should all look over his version once more, and see what emendations might be made in it and in the comment.

But this was not to be.

The gratitude of our Society is due to him, both for the work he did in promoting the love and knowledge of the poet of whom we profess ourselves the students, and for his consenting to act as our President. His memory will be cherished in our Society with especial honor. In our Dante Library his bust shall stand opposite that of his and our Master.

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Second Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 15, 1883.  
With an Appendix.

P. 3. List of Officers. As in the separate sheet circulated with the First Report.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. As in the First Report.

Pp. 7-8. List of Members.

Pp. 9-11. Report. This Report is concerned mainly with the Society's plan to establish a library of Dantesque literature, and records the purchase of an important fifteenth-century manuscript of the *Divina commedia*.\* One of the paragraphs of the Report reads thus:

In the following pages the valuable but somewhat inaccessible "Lives of Dante and Petrarch," by Leonardo Aretino, has been reprinted with the intention of giving the Report permanent value.

P. 12. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 13-36. "Le vite di Dante e del Petrarca, scritte da Leonardo Aretino." P. 13: title. P. 14: introductory statement, unsigned. Pp. 15-36: text of the two Lives.†

\* Now numbered as f MS 56 in the Harvard University Library, and listed in the *Census of Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the United States and Canada*, ed. by S. de Ricci and W. J. Wilson, I (New York, 1935), 990.

† These Lives are now available in Angelo Solerti, *Le vite di Dante, Petrarca e Boccaccio scritte fino al secolo decimosesto* (Milan, 1904).

## THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Third Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 20, 1884. With an Appendix.

P. 3. List of Officers. As in the Second Report.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. As in the First Report.

Pp. 7-8. List of Members.

Pp. 9-12. Report. Several matters are mentioned, of which the three most notable are the preparation of a catalogue of locally available Dante books, Professor Edward Allen Fay's undertaking to prepare a Concordance of the Divine Comedy, and the publication, in the Report itself, of a bibliography of books and essays about Dante published in the United States. The paragraphs devoted to these three matters are as follows:

In connection with this object of the Society should be mentioned the catalogue which Mr. Winsor has arranged to print during the coming year. It will contain a list of all editions of Dante and books relating to Dante in the Harvard College Library, the Boston Public Library, and the private collection, spoken of in previous Reports, which is to be the foundation of what the Society hopes to make a library virtually complete for the purposes of the study of Dante. This will be a really important catalogue, and a copy of it will be sent to each member of the Society.\*

\* Progress of work on this catalogue, prepared by William Coolidge Lane, is mentioned in several of the following reports, and its completion is recorded in the Ninth Report. A first installment, covering editions and translations of the *Divina commedia*, was printed in the *Harvard University Bulletin*, IV (1885), 113-128, and reprinted in the same year, under the title *The Dante Collections in the Harvard College and Boston Public Libraries, Part I*, as No. 7 of the *Bibliographical Contributions of the Library of Harvard University*. Later installments, covering the minor works of Dante and works on Dante, were published in several numbers of the *Harvard University Bulletin* in the years 1885-1889; and the complete catalogue, entitled *The Dante Collections in the Harvard College and Boston Public Libraries*, was published in 1890 as No. 34 of the *Bibliographical Contributions*. In this form the catalogue contains two sections not previously printed, an "Index of Subjects and of Passages in the *Divina Commedia*," and "Notes on the Portraits of Dante contained in the collection." The catalogue covers also the private collection (referred to in the paragraph to which this note is appended) of Charles Eliot Norton, and the private collection of George Ticknor.

During the past year a work has been begun by a member of the Society which promises to be of value to students of Dante everywhere, and a permanent and honorable addition to the body of Dantesque literature in this country. Professor Fay, of the National Deaf and Mute College, has undertaken the preparation of a Concordance of the Divine Comedy. It is his intention to proceed with the work as rapidly as his time will permit, and he hopes to have the book ready for the press within three years. The printed pages sent to the members a short time since, indicate the general plan of the work. The Council have assured Professor Fay of their approval of his undertaking, and of their desire to encourage him in every possible way, in the completion of his project. At the proper time, it is to be hoped that the Society will be able to take some part in insuring the successful publication of a much needed book.\*

In past Reports, some mention has been made of the work of American students of Dante. This year a bibliography of books and essays about Dante, which have ever been published in the United States, has been printed as an appendix to the Report. It has been prepared by Dr. Knapp, and has been made as complete as the materials at hand permit.

P. 13. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 15-27. Appendix:

A list of Works Relating to Dante Printed in the United States of America.

\* Progress of work on this concordance is mentioned in the Fourth and Fifth Reports, and its completion is recorded in the Sixth Report.

## FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Fourth Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 19, 1885. With an Appendix, Containing Additional Notes to the Divine Comedy, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

P. 3. List of Officers. As in the Second Report.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. As in the First Report, except that in Section 2 the clause "if accepted as such by the Council" is omitted.

Pp. 7-8. List of Members.

Pp. 9-13. Report. A reference to the development of the Dante Library contains this sentence:

When it is considered that the great work of Dante, aside from its poetical and literary value, is a compendium of the entire knowledge of that epoch which marks the change from mediaeval to modern thought and life, it is evident that the continuation of this special collection is not of importance to Dante students alone, but is, as well, an object of interest to everyone who desires to promote liberal studies and the cause of letters.

P. 14. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 15-31. "Additional Notes on the *Divine Comedy*," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. P. 15: title. P. 16: introductory statement, signed C.E.N. and dated May, 1885. Pp. 17-24: Notes on the *Inferno*. Pp. 25-28: Notes on the *Purgatorio*. Pp. 29-31: Notes on the *Paradiso*.\*

\* These "Additional Notes" were incorporated in the 1886 edition of Longfellow's translation of the *Divine Comedy*.

## FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Fifth Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 18, 1886. Appendix I. Dante: *James Russell Lowell*. Appendix II. Dante, and the Lancelot Romance: *Paget Toynbee*.

P. 3. List of Officers. As in the Second Report.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. As in the Fourth Report.

Pp. 7-8. List of Members.

Pp. 9-13. Report. This Report carries a statement regarding the Dante Prize, quoted from the *Harvard University Catalogue* for 1885-86, which begins thus:

An annual prize of one hundred dollars is offered for three years by a member of the Dante Society for the best essay by a student in any department of the University, or by a graduate of not more than three years' standing, on a subject drawn from the Life or Works of Dante.

The first prize is offered for the year 1886-87. The subjects proposed for this year are as follows:—

1. A translation into English of Dante's Letters, with explanatory and historical comments.

2. On the individual characteristics and comparative importance of the commentators of the fourteenth century on the Divine Comedy.

3. Dante's obligations to the Schoolmen, especially to Thomas Aquinas.

4. On those characteristics of Dante's style, whether of thought or language, which distinguish him from his contemporaries or immediate predecessors in Italy or France.\*

\* This quotation omits the fourth of the proposed subjects listed in the Catalogue—"4. A study of the allegory of the last six cantos of the *Purgatory*"—and gives the number 4 to the subject listed in the Catalogue as 5. The Statement of Accounts shows that the donor of the prize was George A. Armour.

The remaining paragraphs of the statement concern the detailed conditions of the competition: these paragraphs are repeated without substantial change in later Reports.

P. 14. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 15-38. Lowell, "Dante."<sup>\*</sup>

Pp. 39-74. Toynbee, "Dante, and the Lancelot Romance."<sup>†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup> Reprinted from Appleton's *Cyclopaedia* (1859).

<sup>†</sup> Reprinted in Toynbee's *Dante Studies and Researches* (London, 1902).

## SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Sixth Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 17, 1887. Appendix I. Dante Bibliography for the Year 1886: *Compiled by William Coolidge Lane*. Appendix II. Note on the First Edition of the Comment of Benvenuto da Imola.

P. 3. List of Officers. As in the Second Report.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. As in the Fourth Report.

Pp. 7-8. List of Members.

Pp. 9-13. Report. This Report records the completion of Professor Fay's Concordance; and contains a statement, similar to that contained in the Fifth Report, with regard to the Dante Prize.

P. 15. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 17-30. Appendix I.

Pp. 31-33. Appendix II.\*

\* This "Note" is reprinted from the circular of the publisher, Barbèra of Florence.

## SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Cover and title page:

Seventh Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 15, 1888. Appendix. Dante Bibliography for the Year 1887. *Compiled by William C. Lane.*

P. 3. List of Officers. As in the Second Report, except that the name of William Coolidge Lane is added, as Librarian.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. As in the Fourth Report, except that in Section 5, after the clause "a Secretary and Treasurer," the clause "and a Librarian," is inserted.

Pp. 7-8. List of Members.

Pp. 9-19. Report. This Report announces that Professor Fay's *Concordance* is to be published soon; tells of the award of the first Dante Prize; lists the subjects selected for the competition of the following year; and contains a list of "Additions to the Dante Collection in Harvard College Library. May 1, 1887-May 1, 1888."

P. 20. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 21-35. Appendix.

## EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

Cover and title page:

Eighth Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 13, 1889.  
Accompanying Papers. I. The Episode of the Donna Pietosa. *By George R. Carpenter.* II. Dante Bibliography for the Year 1888. *Compiled by William C. Lane.*

P. 3. List of Officers. As in the Seventh Report.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. As in the Seventh Report.

Pp. 7-8. List of Members.

Pp. 9-18. Report. This Report states that "a number of gentlemen connected in various ways with Harvard University, stimulated by the appearance of Professor Fay's work, have undertaken the compilation, by a system of cooperation, of a concordance to the 'Vita Nuova' and the 'Canzoniere'"; refers to the completion of Mr. Lane's Catalogue; and contains a list of "Additions to the Dante Collection in Harvard College Library. May 1, 1888-May 1, 1889."

P. 19. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 21-79. Mr. Carpenter's prize essay, entitled "The Episode of the Donna Pietosa, being an attempt to reconcile the statements in the Vita Nuova and the Convito concerning Dante's life in the years after the death of Beatrice and before the beginning of the Divina Commedia."

Pp. 81-98. Mr. Lane's Bibliography.

## NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Ninth Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 20, 1890. Accompanying Paper. Dante Bibliography for the Year 1889. *Compiled by William C. Lane.*

P. 3. List of Officers. As in the Seventh Report, except that Mr. Woodbury succeeds Mr. Dyer as a member of the Council, and George Rice Carpenter succeeds Mr. Woodbury as Secretary.

Pp. 5-6. By-Laws. As in the Seventh Report.

Pp. 7-8. List of Members. To the main list there is added, in this and in all later Reports, a list of honorary members. Those listed in this Report are Adolfo Bartoli, Giosuè Carducci, Edward Moore, Theodor Paur, Johann Andreas Scartazzini, and William Warren Vernon.

Pp. 9-19. Report. This Report speaks of the foundation of the Società Dantesca Italiana and of the publication of its *Bullettino* and of the periodical *L'Alighieri*; proposes subjects for the Dante prize for 1888-1889 and for 1889-90; and contains a list of "Additions to the Dante Collection in Harvard College Library. May 1, 1889-May 1, 1890."

P. 20. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 21-45. Mr. Lane's Bibliography.

## TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Tenth Annual Report of the Dante Society. May 19, 1891. Accompanying Papers. I. Additions to the Dante Collection in the Harvard College Library, May 1, 1890-May 1, 1891. *Compiled by William C. Lane.* II. Documents Concerning Dante's Debts. III. Documents Concerning Dante's Public Life. Part I. *Compiled by G. R. Carpenter.*

P. 1. List of Officers. As in the Ninth Report.

Pp. 3-5. List of Members.

Pp. 7-8. By-Laws. As in the Seventh Report.

Pp. 9-13. Report. This Report tells, by quotation from the Harvard University Catalogue of 1890-91, of the award of the Dante Prize, in 1890, to Charles Sterrett Latham (whose work had been done after he had been stricken with paralysis); of his death without learning of the award; and of his mother's renewal of the prize offer, under terms differing from the earlier terms in that "the competition is open not only to the students in any department of Harvard University, and to Harvard graduates of not more than three years' standing, but also to students and graduates of similar standing of any college or university in the United States." For each of the four previous Annual Reports Mr. Lane had prepared a Dante Bibliography for the calendar year prior to that in which the Report was issued: the Tenth Report tells of the discontinuance of that custom in view of the regular issuance of Dante bibliographies in the *Bullettino* of the Società Dantesca Italiana.

P. 14. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 15-31. "Additions to the Dante Collection."

Pp. 32-35. "Documents Concerning Dante's Debts."\*

Pp. 36-60. "Documents Concerning Dante's Public Life. Part I."

\* Reprinted from Emilio Frullani and Gargano Gargani, *Della Casa di Dante* (Florence, 1885).

## ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Eleventh Annual Report of the Dante Society (Cambridge, Mass.) May 17, 1892. Accompanying Papers. I. Documents Concerning Dante's Public Life. Part II. *Compiled by G. R. Carpenter.* II. Additions to the Dante Collection in the Harvard College Library, May 1, 1891-May 1, 1892. *Compiled by William C. Lane.* III. *Dante's Personal Character. By Lucy Allen Paton.*

P. 2. List of Officers for 1891-92. As in the Ninth Report.

P. 3. List of Officers for 1892-93. President, Charles Eliot Norton; Vice-President, Justin Winsor; Members of the Council, Edward Allen Fay, Philip Coombs Knapp, Jr., and John Woodbury; Librarian, William Coolidge Lane; Secretary and Treasurer, George Rice Carpenter.

P. 4. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 5-6. List of Members.

Pp. 7-8. By-Laws. As in the Seventh Report, except that in Section 5 the clause "except in the office of President" and the concluding sentence are omitted.

Pp. 9-13. Report. This Report is concerned mainly with the commemoration of Mr. Lowell. The first paragraph of an extract from the records of the annual meeting, held on May 17, 1892, is quoted herewith:

The meeting having been called to order, Mr. Norton spoke briefly of the loss which the Society had sustained in the death of its President. Mr. Lowell stood first among the interpreters of Dante to the English-speaking race. Alike as scholar and as poet, by long study and by sympathetic insight, he had become one of the intimate familiars of Dante. He had applied to himself in relation to Dante, the words of Dante to Virgil: 'May the long zeal and the great love avail me which have made me search thy volume!' The zeal and love had begun in early life and continued to its end.

Mention is made of the publication of Mr. Norton's translation of the *Divine Comedy*; and it is stated that Miss Paton's paper "is the successful essay in competition for the Timmins Prize of 1891, at the Harvard Annex, printed here through the courtesy of the authorities of the Annex, and at the expense of a member of the Society."

Pp. 15-53. "Documents Concerning Dante's Public Life, Part II."

Pp. 54-72. "Additions to the Dante Collection."

Pp. 73-109. "The Personal Character of Dante as Revealed in his Writings. By Lucy Allen Paton. Being the Essay by a Member of the School of the Society for the Collegiate Instruction for Women, in Cambridge, Mass., to which 'The Sara Greene Timmins Prize' was awarded in 1891."\*

\* Reprinted, with revisions, in *Publications of the Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women. Fay House Monographs*, No. 4 (Boston, 1892).

## TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Twelfth Annual Report of the Dante Society (Cambridge, Mass.) May 16, 1893. Accompanying Papers. I. Dante's Obligations to the De Officiis in Regard to the Division and Order of Sins in the Inferno. *By Dr. Edward Moore.* II. Additions to the Dante Collection in the Harvard College Library, May 1, 1892-May 1, 1893. *Compiled by William C. Lane.*

P. 3. List of Officers for 1892-93. As in the Eleventh Report.

P. 4. List of Officers for 1893-94. As for 1892-93, except that Mr. Carpenter becomes Vice-President, and Arthur Richmond Marsh succeeds Mr. Carpenter as Secretary and Treasurer.

Pp. 5-7. List of Members.

P. 9. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 10-11. By-Laws. As in the Eleventh Report.

Pp. 11-16. Report. This Report is devoted chiefly to the quotation of remarks made at the May meeting by Mr. Norton in commemoration of Dr. T. W. Parsons and of George William Curtis.

Pp. 17-24. Dr. Moore's paper.\*

Pp. 25-39. "Additions to the Dante Collection."

\* A partial reprint, with additions, of an article in the London *Academy* for June 4, 1892.

## THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Dante Society (Cambridge, Mass.) May 15, 1894. Accompanying Papers. Additions to the Dante Collection in the Harvard College Library, May 1, 1893-May 1, 1894. *Compiled by William C. Lane. Index of Proper Names in the Prose Works and Canzoniere of Dante. By Paget Toynbee.*

P. 2. Copyright.

P. 3. List of Officers for 1893-94. As in the Twelfth Report.

P. 4. List of Officers for 1894-95. As for 1893-94, except that Edward Stevens Sheldon replaces Edward Allen Fay as a member of the Council.

Pp. 5-7. List of Members.

P. 8. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 9-10. By-Laws. As in the Eleventh Report.

Pp. 11-12. The Dante Prize. A formal statement regarding the Dante Prize is here for the first time printed as a separate section of the Report: this custom is continued in all later Reports. In this Report the statement is preceded by the words "In memoriam Charles Starrett Latham." His mother's renewal of the prize is mentioned; and it is said that "The annual prize of one hundred dollars offered by a member of the Dante Society . . . is withdrawn for the present, but the offer will be renewed after the award of the Latham Prize." The four subjects proposed for the year 1894-95 are listed.

Pp. 13-17. Report. This Report opens with a general review of progress in Dante studies, reference being made in particular to Dr. Moore's forthcoming edition of the complete works of Dante and to Professor Willard Fiske's gift of his great collection of books on Dante to Cornell University. The activities of the Dante Society itself are then reviewed, special mention being made of the fact that "the Society has been able to provide for, or to give aid towards the publication of several works on Dante of permanent impor-

tance,—notably, Dr. Fay's *Concordance of the Divina Commedia*, and Mr. Latham's *Translation of Dante's Letters*.”\*

Reference is made to progress in the preparation of the concordance to the minor Italian works of Dante; it is suggested that a similar concordance be made for the Latin works; and other possible projects are mentioned.

Pp. 1-16 (*sic*). “Additions to the Dante Collection.”

Pp. 1-28 (*sic*). Mr. Toynbee's “Index.”

\* This translation, Mr. Latham's Dante Prize essay, was published in Boston in 1891, with a remarkable preface by Mr. Norton, and an Editor's Note by Mr. Carpenter.

## FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

### Cover and title page:

Fourteenth Annual Report of the Dante Society (Cambridge, Mass.) May 15, 1895. Accompanying Papers. Illustrations of the Divine Comedy from the Chronicle of Fra Salimbene. By C. E. Norton. A Variant in the *Vita Nuova*. By E. Moore. Additions to the Dante Collection in the Harvard College Library, May 1, 1894-May 1, 1895. Compiled by William C. Lane.

P. 2. Copyright.

P. 3. List of Officers for 1894-95. As in the Thirteenth Report.

P. 4. List of Officers for 1895-96. As for 1894-95.

Pp. 5-8. List of Members.

P. 9. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. 10-11. By-Laws. As in the Eleventh Report.

Pp. 12-13. The Dante Prize. As in the Thirteenth Report, except that dates are changed at the necessary points, and other subjects are proposed.

Pp. 14-19. Report. The chief feature of this Report is a complete list of all the essay subjects that had been proposed during the nine years in which the Dante Prize had been offered.

Pp. 21-34. Mr. Norton's "Illustrations of the Divine Comedy from the Chronicle of Fra Salimbene": a brief introductory statement, followed by some thirty paragraphs from the Latin text of the *Chronicle*, arranged in the order of the passages of the *Divine Comedy* which they illustrate.

Pp. 35-36. Dr. Moore's "A Variant in the *Vita nuova*": a note on the reading *Arabia* instead of *Italia* in Section XXIX (XXX in the Oxford *Dante*) of the *Vita nuova*.\*

Pp. 37-54. "Additions to the Dante Collection."

\* Reprinted from the *London Academy*, Dec. 1, 1894.

## FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Cover and title page:

Fifteenth Annual Report of the Dante Society (Cambridge, Mass.) May 19, 1896. Accompanying Paper. *Dante in America, a Historical and Bibliographical Study.* By *Theodore W. Koch.*

P. ii. Copyright.

P. iii. List of Officers for 1895-96. As in the Fourteenth Report.

P. iv. List of Officers for 1896-97. As for 1895-96.

Pp. v-vii. List of Members.

P. viii. Statement of Accounts.

Pp. ix-x. By-Laws. As in the Eleventh Report.

Pp. xi-xiii. The Dante Prize. As in the Thirteenth Report, except that dates and subjects are changed, and that a list of the first six prize-winners is given.

Pp. xv-xviii. Report. This Report contains the following statement of the purpose of the Society:

The earnest student of the poet and his works cannot but feel the need of striving as much as possible for the diffusion of a truly scholarly knowledge of him and of them. This is the purpose the Dante Society has had from its foundation, and this still remains its sincerest interest. It urges upon all who love Dante and desire to see his influence strong in the intellectual and spiritual life of the modern world, the necessity of genuine devotion to truth and sound learning in the study of him. It aims to foster, in so far as it can, this spirit in those who give themselves to the long but profitable task of learning to understand his works. By its own publications, and by the encouragement and help it may be able to give those who can make real contributions to such studies, it strives to aid in enlarging year by year the bounds of our knowledge; and in all legitimate ways it endeavors to extend and deepen the interest which serious-minded persons must always feel in Dante, as soon as they obtain any acquaintance with him.

Pp. 1-150. Dr. Koch's "Dante in America." Pp. 3-4: Preface. P. 5: Contents. Pp. 7-10: Introduction. Pp. 10-18: Lorenzo da Ponte. Pp. 18-23: George Ticknor. Pp. 23-36: Richard Henry Wilde. Pp. 36-47: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Pp. 47-53: Thomas William Parsons. Pp. 53-60: James Russell Lowell. Pp. 60-62: Charles Eliot Norton. Pp. 62-63: Conclusion. Pp. 64-74: Appendix. I. Three papers on passages in Dante by Lorenzo da Ponte (reprinted from the *New York Review and Athenaeum* for 1825-26). II. William Hickling Prescott. Pp. 75-143: American Dante Bibliography. Pp. 144-150: Index to the Bibliography.